

D-328  
Eldorado United Methodist Church  
Eldorado  
1898  
Public Worship

The Eldorado United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Protestant congregation, is one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings to survive in this rural crossroads village in eastern Dorchester County. Standing along MD 313 leading from Eldorado to Federalsburg, the 1898 Gothic Revival frame church is supported on a raised, rusticated concrete block foundation that houses the church hall. The gable-front frame structure features a steeply pitched roof and pointed arch door and window openings filled with colored glass panes. The pointed arch transom window over the front entrance incorporates the original name of the church and the date of construction, which are repeated in a marble datestone set in the southeast corner of the foundation. The other principal feature of the original design is the bell tower and steeple that rise on the southwest corner.

On Sunday, September 4, 1898, a host of area ministers, the congregation and friends gathered for all day and evening dedicatory service for their new church. Eldorado's Reverend George M. Clayton led the service with a "love feast and experience meeting" at 9:30 a.m., that was followed with sermons or presentations by Rev. W. B. Judefind from Grove, Maryland, Rev. John L. Johnson, pastor of the Galestown Methodist congregation, Rev. S. J. Smith from Seaford, Delaware, Rev. J. A. Wright from Brookview across the creek, and Rev. B. F. Jester from Sharptown.

Congregant and village leader Zoro W. Brinsfield is identified as the principal influence for Eldorado's construction after members split from the parent congregation, the nearby Wesley M. E. church.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-328

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Eldorado M. P. Church  
other Eldorado United Methodist Church

### 2. Location

street and number Eldorado-Federalburg Road not for publication  
city, town Eldorado vicinity  
county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Eldorado United Methodist Church  
street and number 5413 Sharptown Road telephone  
city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 101 folio 16  
city, town Cambridge tax map 35 tax parcel 105 tax ID number 01-009958

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**

\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-328

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Eldorado United Methodist Church, historically the Eldorado Methodist Protestant Church, stands on the north side of the Eldorado-Federsburg Road (MD Route 313) in the village of Eldorado, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story Gothic Revival frame church, built in 1898, is supported by a rusticated concrete block foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof of asphalt shingles. Rising the southwest corner is a steeple that incorporates a belfry and needle shaped spire. The church faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on a southeast/northwest axis. Surrounding the church is a cemetery.

Built in 1898, the Eldorado United Methodist Church, is supported on an early twentieth century rusticated concrete block foundation that incorporates a fully excavated cellar. Fixed in the foundation on the northeast corner is a marble stone inscribed, "Eldorado M. P. Church, 1898." A set of steps, also executed in concrete block, rises to a center, Gothic Revival, double-door entrance topped by a colored glass transom. The doors have been replaced, but the colored glass transom is original and features the same date and name of congregation in its design. Flanking the entrance are long, pointed arch windows featuring colored glass perimeter panes. Fixed in the upper gable is a round window of colored glass also. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave. Rising on the southwest corner of the gable roof is a steeple, set on a square base and rising with a tapered mid-section to a square open-face belfry. Resting atop the belfry is a needle spire that is supported on a square base defined by cross gables on the four sides.

The northeast side of the rectangular church is defined by three pointed arch windows featuring colored glass perimeter panes. The southwest side is defined in the same way with the addition of small additions as entrances to the church cellar. The northwest (rear) wall is marked by a short gable roofed apse that rests on an expanded base with a rusticated concrete block foundation. The sides of the apse are pierced by colored glass, pointed arch windows. A single-flue brick stove chimney rises against the gable end of the apse.

Surrounding the church on the north and west sides is a cemetery primarily dating from the twentieth century.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-328

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates 9.4.1898 (Dedication)

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1898

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Eldorado United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Protestant congregation, is one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings to survive in this rural crossroads village in eastern Dorchester County. Standing along MD 313 leading from Eldorado to Federalsburg, the 1898 Gothic Revival frame church is supported on a raised, rusticated concrete block foundation that houses the church hall. The gable-front frame structure features a steeply pitched roof and pointed arch door and window openings filled with colored glass. The point arch transom window over the front entrance incorporates the original name of the church and the date of construction, which are repeated in a marble datestone set in southeast corner of the foundation. The other principal feature of the original design is the bell tower and steeple that rise on the southwest corner.

On Sunday, September 4, 1898, a host of area ministers, congregation and friends gathered for an all-day and evening dedicatory service for their new church. Eldorado's Reverend George M. Clayton led the service with a "love feast and experience meeting" at 9:30 a.m. that was followed with sermons or presentations by Rev. W. B. Judefind from Grove, Maryland, Rev. John L. Johnson, pastor of the Galestown church, Rev. S. J. Smith from Seaford, Delaware, Rev. J. A. Wright from Brookview across the creek, and Rev. B. F. Jester from Sharptown.<sup>1</sup> Congregant and village leader Zoro W. Brinsfield is credited for Eldorado's construction after members split from its parent congregation, the nearby Wesley M. E. church.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Democrat and News*, 9.3.1898.

<sup>2</sup> E C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, 1948, p. 305.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-328

*Democrat and News*, 9.3.1898.

E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, The Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 305.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .86 acres

Acreage of historical setting .86 acres

Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, MD Quadrangle, 1974 Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation date 1/8/2008

street & number Cedar Hill, Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

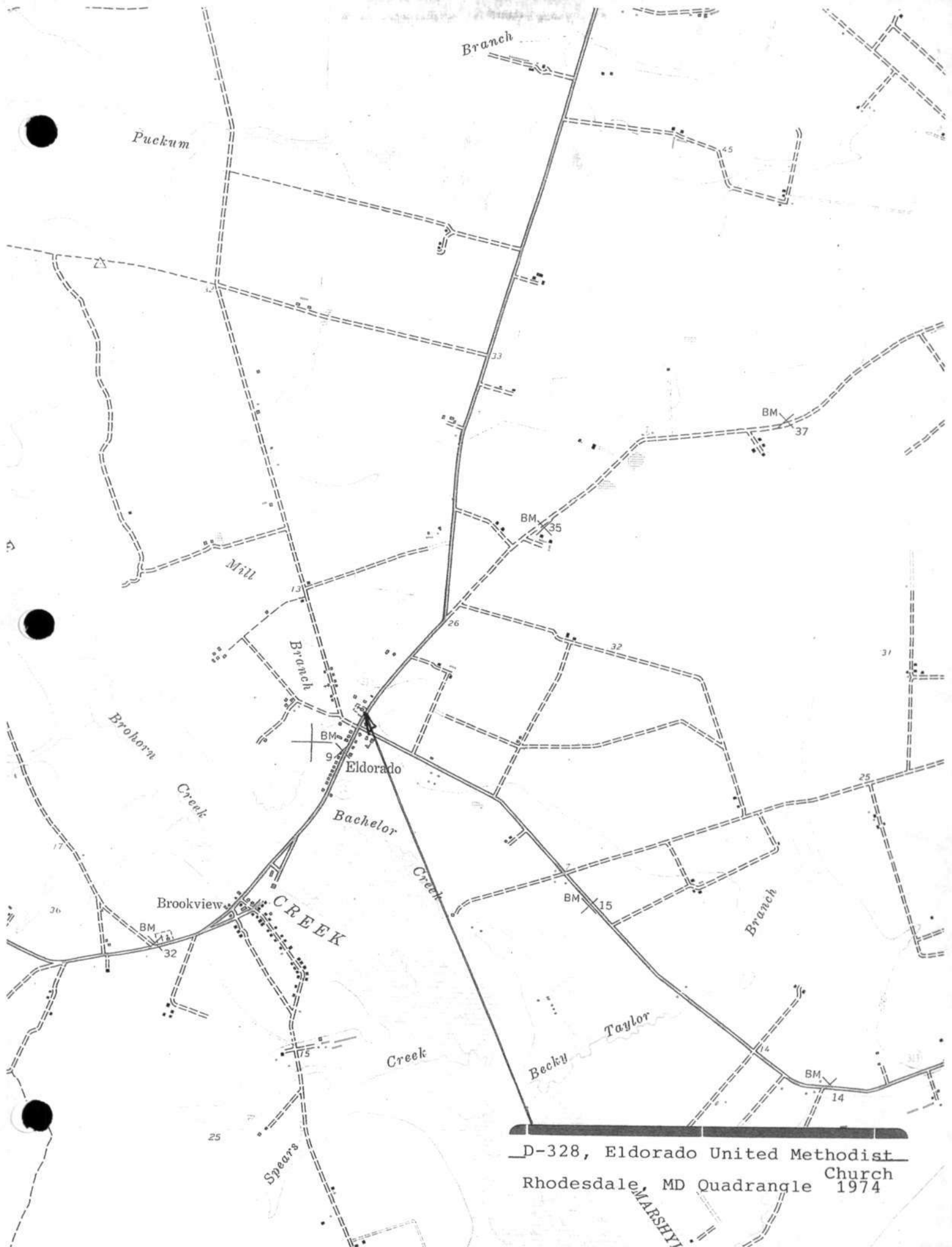
city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



D-328, Eldorado United Methodist Church  
Rhodesdale, MD Quadrangle 1974







D-328

ELDORADO M. P. Church

ELDORADO VIC, DORCHESTER Co., MA.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

3/08, Paul Touart, PHOTOGRAPHIC

W & B / AND HISTORICAL TRUST

1/2



D-328

ELDONADO M. P. CHURCH

ELDONADO, DORCHESTER Co., MS.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

MS. HISTORICAL TRUST

2/2

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Eldorado M. P. Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Md. Rt. 313, Eldorado-Federalburg Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Eldorado

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY:

Dorchester

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
					<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Eldorado Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Rhodesdale

STATE:

Maryland

21859

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Maryland

21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book &amp; Pg. #): 003/700

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eldorado M. P. Church stands high above a concrete block foundation. Its corner stone bears its name and date: 1898. The date is repeated in the colored glass transom above the central door. Flanking the door are lancet arch windows with central opaque pane surrounded by small panes of colored glass. The same type windows, three on each side, are found on the sides. In the gable, above the central entrance is a large circular window divided into four opaque panes surrounded by eight colored panes. The walls are covered with aluminum siding. Within the rectangular body of the church rises the bellfry which has a square base with truncated pyramidal roof. From the truncation rises the open bellfry with gallery and balustrade. Its roof has a pediment on each of the four facets from which rises a short spire.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eldorado M. P. Church is one of the best maintained chapels in Dorchester County. Proportionally and some of the details are similar to Beckwith Chapel in the Neck District, and both were built in the same decade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 1, Map 35, p. 105

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	Nov, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Shaw House, 21 State Circle	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Annapolis	Maryland 21401

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



17X1-22

50%

D-328



Eldorado M.P. Church

D ~~#1 Bour~~ 328

M. Bourive Nov 1975